

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 /115 W
-----019678 150618Z /23

R 150139Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9572
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, CH
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON CHAD/
LIBYA DISPUTE FEBRUARY 14

REF: USUN 463 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL AGREED FEBRUARY 14 TO SET
FEBRUARY 16 AS PROVISIONAL DATE FOR FORMAL COUNCIL SESSION
ON THE CHAD/LIBYA DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.
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1. SC PRESIDENT TROYANOVSKY (USSR) OPENED INFORMAL SC
CONSULTATIONS FEB 14 BY INFORMING MEMBERS THAT AFRICAN
GROUP MEDIATION EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN OVER LAST FEW DAYS
REGARDING CHAD/LIBYA DISPUTE HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.
CHADAN PERMREP HAD THEREFORE ON FEB 13 RENEWED HIS
REQUEST FOR FORMAL SC MEETING. HOWEVER, CONTINUED

TROYANOVSKY, LIBYAN PERMREP KIKHIA HAD JUST RELAYED NEW INFORMATION TO HIM FROM TRIPOLI. GOL WISHED TO INFORM SC PRESIDENT THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD OF FRANCE HAD JUST SENT MESSAGE TO LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADHAAFI UNDERTAKING TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA. GISCARD HAD TOLD QADHAAFI THAT IF THIS MEDIATION WAS UNDERTAKEN, "PERHAPS" CHAD WOULD WITHDRAW ITS SC COMPLAINT. THE GOL ANSWER TO GISCARD HAD BEEN "POSITIVE", KIKHIA HAD TOLD TROYANOVSKY.

2. KIKHIA HAD ALSO RELAYED TO TROYANOVSKY NEWS OF A PROPOSAL FROM PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON TO QADHAAFI, OFFERING TO ORGANIZE A MEETING BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE OF CHAD AND LIBYA. BONGO ALSO HAD PROPOSED TO QADHAAFI THE POSSIBILITY OF MEDIATION BY SUDAN'S NUMEIRY. THE GOL ANSWER TO BONGO HAD ALSO BEEN "POSITIVE", KIKHIA HAD TOLD TROYANOVSKY.

3. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, GABON (N'DONG) ARGUED STRONGLY FOR GOING AHEAD WITH FORMAL SC SESSION AS PLANNED, NOTING THAT SC ACTION WOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ATTEMPTS AT MEDIATION. CHAD WAS VICTIM OF SERIOUS HOSTILITIES. SC COULD EXERCISE "PRESSURE" ON THE OAU TO APPEAL TO THE STATES CONCERNED (READ LIBYA) TO SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ANY MEDIATION EFFORT.

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4. KUWAIT (BISHARA) ARGUED THAT PUBLIC DEBATE WOULD ONLY BE DIVISIVE. COUNCIL SHOULD ALLOW QUIET MEDIATION EFFORTS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE ACTING. GABON COUNTERED THAT DELAY IN ACTING DID NOT FAVOR CHAD SIDE OF DISPUTE.

5. FRANCE (LEPRETTE) SUPPORTED POSITION OF GABON. HE EXPLAINED THAT GISCARD'S OBJECTIVE IN APPROACHING QADHAAFI WAS IMPLY TO DO WHATEVER MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO EFFECT AN EARLY CEASE-FIRE. LEPRETTE REMINDS MEMBERS THAT CHAD HAD CALLED FOR CEASE-FIRE ON FEBRUARY 12 AND HAD SAID IT WOULD WAIT UNTIL FEBRUARY 16 TO SEE IF CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE RESPECTED. IF IT WAS NOT, THEN CHAD WOULD RENEW HER INSISTENCE ON FORMAL SC MEETING. LEPRETTE SAID THAT COUNCIL, WHILE OF COURSE AWAITING RESULTS OF CEASEFIRE DEADLINE AND CHAD'S RESPONSE, SHOULD NONETHELESS SET DATE FOR THAT FORMAL MEETING. KUWAIT AGAIN DEMURRED, INSISTING THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD AT LEAST HEAR OUT CHADIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DUE IN NEW YORK FEB 15, BEFORE SETTING DATE FOR FORMAL MEETING.

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0526

6. US (PETREE) SAID THAT US RECOGNIZED USEFULNESS OF
QUIET DIPLOMACY BUT ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SC
TO ACT ON COMPLAINT FROM UN MEMBER STATE. US SUPPORTED
CALL FOR FORMAL SC MEETING. CANADA SUPPORTED US VIEW.

7. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, PRESIDENT SET THURSDAY
PM FEBRUARY 16 AS PROVISIONAL DATE FOR FORMAL SC SESSION
ON CHAD/LIBYA. IF HIS MEETING WITH CHAD FONMIN REVEALED
CHAD STILL INSISTENT ON FORMAL SESSION, THEN SESSION
WOULD TAKE PLACE AS NOW SCHEDULED. IF CHAD FONMIN HAD
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CHANGED HIS MIND, THEN THURSDAY SESSION WOULD BE TURNED
INTO ANOTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATION WHICH WOULD INFORM

MEMBERS OF ADDITIONAL POSTPONEMENT.

8. COMMENT. WHILE NO ONE RULES OUT NEW EVENTS IN THIS COMPLEX AND FAST-MOVING SCENARIO, THE ODDS TONIGHT ARE THAT THERE WILL IN FACT BE A FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION ON CHAD/LIBYA FEBRUARY 16. MISSION ALSO NOTES THAT IN OUR AT LEAST DAILY DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH MISSION ON AFRICAN MATTERS, WE GOT NO HINT WHATSOEVER OF GISCARD INITIATIVE.

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